

BRING OLD RELIABLE BACK TO ITS PROPER THRONE

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a 1992 law designed to save water said that the old standard 3½ gallon toilet must be replaced with a 1½ gallon streamlined job. It sounds good, but Americans have been flushing away ever since. It has gotten so bad there is now a black market on old reliables. It is no joke. Americans are getting potty fatigued flushing their own toilet.

If that is not enough, Members of the other side, to squeeze your Charmin, if you get caught flushing an old reliable in your own home, it is a \$2,500 fine.

Beam me up here. I say the nincompoop over at EPA who suggested this policy should go to a proctologist for a brain scan. Flush this.

I yield back all the constipation over this issue and urge us to bring old reliable back to its appropriate throne.

REPUBLICANS DELIVER ON PROMISE TO PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I do not understand our friends on the other side of the aisle. They come down here with a phony number saying that Republicans are dipping into the Social Security trust fund by \$13 billion. That is not true, and they know it. Because if it were true, the Democrats would be down here trying to cut \$13 billion from the budget to save Social Security. But they are not. Instead, they are actually criticizing us for not spending more money.

So here is the position of our friends on the other side of the aisle in a nutshell. On the one hand, they say we are spending \$13 billion more than we should. On the other hand, they are saying we should be spending more. How is that for consistency?

Mr. Speaker, when this process is over, it will be clear to all that we Republicans have delivered on our promise to protect Social Security from being raided by our big-spending friends on the other side of the aisle.

UNMASK THE GOP

(Mr. CUMMINGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, as we near Halloween weekend, it is clear that the GOP has put on its mask and is ready for a masquerade ball where they can pretend to be who they are not. But masks come off at the end of the ball and will reveal that the true face of the GOP is one of hypocrisy.

Fortunately, unlike the GOP, the Democratic face is that of the American people. The Democratic face wants a budget that protects Social Security and pays our national debt, a prescription drug policy that provides prescription drugs for those who cannot afford them, 100,000 new teachers, 50,000 more police to combat crime.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats understand as lawmakers, we are a reflection of the American people and should not attempt to alter that mirror image. And so I urge the GOP to leave their mask at home and try to wear the face of the American people.

VOTE "YES" TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. HILL of Montana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, day after day Members of both political parties have come to this floor and said that we must not invade the Social Security trust fund to spend on other programs. I have been among those. The President stood in this Chamber in the 1998 State of the Union Address and said, "Let's put aside 100 percent of Social Security for Social Security." I applauded those remarks at the time. But then the President sent proposal after proposal to this floor to spend those funds. When he did that, he was wrong and I stood against him.

In the next few days, every Member of this Chamber is going to have an opportunity to put their money where their mouth is.

The rubber is about to meet the road. In order to avoid spending part of Social Security, we are going to have to cut back a little bit on the spending bills. It is about 1 percent, more or less. The American people are going to be watching, because it is a simple test. If you are prepared to make the tough choice that is going to be required to protect Social Security, then you will vote "yes." But if your pledge to protect Social Security has been nothing but hollow rhetoric, then you are probably going to find some reason to vote "no." It is all boiling down to this one vote.

I am going to stand with America's seniors. I am going to stand with the folks who pay the Social Security taxes. I am going to fight for Social Security. I am going to vote "yes." America is going to be watching.

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PRIVACY

(Mr. LUTHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, financial services modernization legislation has emerged from conference committee, but unfortunately it lacks provisions

that allow American consumers to keep financial institutions from distributing their personal private financial information. The bill is so riddled with loopholes that it would actually permit the telemarketing practice that outraged citizens in my home State of Minnesota and that our Attorney General Mike Hatch stopped.

It did not need to be this way, Mr. Speaker. Financial institutions need to move into the next century, but not at the expense of the American people, and we are here to represent the American people. It is not too much to ask that these institutions in the wake of an unprecedented opportunity to profit, that they respect their customers' privacy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Americans to contact their representatives in Congress and to stop this bill from passing.

WHITE HOUSE AND DEMOCRAT MINORITY NEED TO PUT THE BRAKES ON RUNAWAY SPENDING

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, just so there is no misunderstanding about what is really going on here, let us review for a moment tax cuts.

President Clinton and his liberal Democrat allies in the Congress has seen to it that working American families will not receive one red cent in tax reductions next year.

Spending cuts.

The President and his liberal friends here in the Congress have fought fiscal restraint at every turn. The President has vetoed spending bills because they spent too little, and the Democratic leadership here in the Congress has advocated even more pork barrel spending and more foreign aid spending, even at the expense of the Social Security Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the White House and the liberal Democratic minority in the Congress to put working Americans first for a change. It is time to put the brakes on runaway spending. It is time the President put the veto pen away and quit raiding the Social Security Trust Fund.

UNMASKING THE FAULTY RHETORIC

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, let us really unmask the Republican rhetoric. They can repeat over and over again that they are not spending the Social Security surplus, but let me just say this: we could put wheels on my grandmother, but we would not make her a wagon. I mean this is unbelievable; it is unimaginable what they are talking about here.

Mr. Speaker, their own accounting office, the Congressional Budget Office,

has said that their budget spends \$13 billion from the Social Security Trust Fund. Instead of trying to strengthen Social Security, protect it for the future and not spend it, they are in fact at this moment deep into the Social Security surplus.

As my colleagues know, the baby boomers are going to retire soon. We need a strong Social Security system for those people who are enjoying it today and for those who need to have it for the future.

The budget that the Republican leadership has prepared does not allow for that reality, so we need to call this for what it is. I will tell my colleagues what they are doing. Not only are they spending our savings, they are doing it with projects that are out of step with the public priorities. They spend billions of dollars on military projects that the Pentagon does not want. They give billions to the corporate oil and gas industry.

Let us unmask this faulty rhetoric.

GARBAGE IN, GARBAGE OUT

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, again my colleague from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), to put it charitably, is confused. See, one of the oldest Washington tricks is to send the budgeteers a letter with false assumptions to get a false result. In the real world that is called garbage in, garbage out.

Now to the gentlewoman and the rest of my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, we do not propose to put wheels on anyone's grandma and take away their Social Security. Now that has been, sadly, standard operating procedure when the free spenders were in charge of this institution; but on the contrary, Mr. Speaker, what we propose is a 1 percent solution.

Observe, Mr. Speaker, one penny, one cent, made, no doubt, with fine Arizona copper in part, and what we propose, Mr. Speaker, is to take one penny out of every dollar of discretionary spending. That way we balance the books; that way we preserve the Social Security Trust Fund.

No, we do not want to see grandma sold down the river or any American. We will stop the raid. We have done so, and we dare not turn back now. Responsibility, credibility, and the future is the key to success, and we will do it.

FAILED POLICY IN AFRICA

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, America is supposed to be a force for good in the world, but with our failed policy in Africa I am beginning to wonder if that is really so. How can a mother allow the world's children to be offered up as the most innocent victims of U.S. foreign policy?

Madeleine Albright's first stop in Africa was a stark example of our continued failure on that continent. It was U.S. policy to do nothing to help the fledgling democracy of Sierra Leone. Only after that policy became a shameful embarrassment, the U.S. brokered the peace that gave important ministries in government to rebels whose hallmark was to rape little girls and chop off their arms.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, a share in government for rapists and mutilators is in Albright's own words the necessary price of peace, just like 5,000 dead kids a month in Iraq. After standing in line to shake hands with the victims of her do - nothing - to - help - when - a - a - little - help - can - make - a - difference policy, Albright remarked, "It's hard to extend your hand to shake hands with people who don't have hands."

Mr. Speaker, the President has allowed his Africa policy to become insensitive, uncaring, and shameful.

RENAMING FEDERAL BUILDINGS

(Mr. TANCREDO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, in the short time I have been here, I have witnessed several things and heard many statements that I can only characterize or that can only be characterized as at least audacious; but nothing to date has been more audacious than the recent attempt to name buildings after present Members of Congress. If this trend continues, Mr. Speaker, we may find ourselves debating issues such as this in this great building but having it renamed after one of our more powerful Members. So I ask my colleagues in both the House and Senate to take a step back, take a deep breath and ask themselves the honest question of whether they truly feel they are deserving of the honor of having their names forever etched on the side of Federal property.

I feel that the opportunity to impact the lives of our constituents every day is honor enough for one's entire life, and I will today introduce legislation to end attempts to immortalize one's self while serving in this body.

SOCIAL SECURITY IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe in Social Security; and when we look at it, when we look at the legislation, we got to make sure we address the needs of those senior citizens that we have in this country. We also need to make sure that we address the baby boomers as they come up in this.

And as we also look at that piece of legislation, as we look at what we are doing out here, we need to also make

sure that we take care of the "baby echo," those youngsters that are beginning to pay Social Security and those youngsters are beginning to work out there. It is important for us to do that.

As we also look at what Social Security has done in this country, a lot of Americans out there who work saw that they have. My dad worked for over 35 years in a company, and after all was said and done, the only thing he had was Social Security. Social Security, there are 12 million senior citizens who only receive that, and that is what keeps them out of poverty. There are over 800,000 youngsters that also fall under the Social Security that are also taken care of. Many Americans, especially women and minorities, do not have the jobs that provide the retirement and disability benefits. For them Social Security is the only thing they have. So it is important for us to stop playing games and to make sure we take care of Social Security.

PASS THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, this week the Senate is considering a bill that we passed out of this House in July. It is called the Africa growth and opportunity act, and this act says that the United States is not giving up on Africa, that there is a real need, a real opportunity, to bring Africa into the world economy. The Africa bill is an important step in promoting Africa's development, and it is good for America too to open these markets in Africa, to open these export markets for the United States.

Trade between the U.S. and sub-Saharan Africa has been growing for the last several years. We now have 100,000 U.S. jobs involved in exports to Africa at this time, and this bill is also good for my home State of California which is number five in exporting to Africa. We now take more of our oil from Africa than we do from the Persian Gulf, and this Africa bill is the most important trade legislation to pass this House in 5 years. It would be a major accomplishment if signed into law.

Mr. Speaker, let us export the free market to Africa. It is a win for Africa and a win for America.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am following my colleague from Arizona on a regular basis here on our 1-minutes. Let me give some statistics that we are talking about when we are really talking about saving Social Security: the amount of the Social Security surplus the House Republicans have already dipped into, \$14 billion;